Amy Biestek – Regional Associate for Northern Virginia abiestek@strength.org (571) 247-5579

Amy Biestek, a Northern Virginia native, is a graduate of the University of Virginia and is currently in her last semester of graduate school at George Mason University, where she will be receiving her Masters in Public Policy, with a Social Policy concentration. Amy currently resides in Arlington, Virginia. Before joining the team, Amy was the Early Learning Associate at the Bainum Family Foundation, where she worked closely with and provided technical assistance to non-profit organizations and agencies within the District serving our nation's most vulnerable children and their families. Amy was also a Program Associate with the After School Program at the foundation where she and her team managed both an after school literacy program and a summer enrichment program for low-income students in Montgomery



County, Maryland. Amy is excited to be a part of the No Kid Hungry Virginia campaign where she will be able to pursue her career focused on solving how to build support systems, specifically focused on health and nutrition, that work for children and their families at the city, state and national level.

Marissa Spady – Regional Associate for Southeast Virginia mspady@strength.org (757) 651-9145

Marissa Spady MS, RD is a native Virginian, local to the Tidewater region. Marissa grew up and currently resides in Isle of Wight County with her husband, Chris, and children, Peyton and Barrett. Marissa received her undergraduate degree in Dietetics at James Madison University and her Masters Degree in Clinical Nutrition from East Tennessee State University. She worked briefly in clinical nutrition before finding her passion in education and advocacy. Over the last 6 years, Marissa was the Nutrition Specialist at The Planning Council, a USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsor. As her position evolved she became the Program Manager for the grant-funded Farm to Childcare program, where she connected local farmers to local childcare programs in the Western Tidewater area of Virginia through menus, taste



tests, CSAs, produce fundraisers, and community gardens. Marissa is excited about the opportunity with the No Kid Hungry Virginia to improve the accessibility and wellness aspects of school nutrition for all children.

Kerri Whitt – Regional Associate for Southwest Virginia kwhitt@strength.org (276) 821-8170

Kerri is originally from Rockingham County, Virginia, and now lives with her family just across the Virginia state line in Mt. Carmel, Tennessee. She is a graduate of Virginia Tech and West Chester University, where she studied Human Development and Public Health. Kerri has spent much of her time advocating for young children in Southwest Virginia. As an Infant and Toddler Specialist, she provided training and assistance to help providers improve the quality of childcare in the region. Most recently, Kerri managed a grant aimed at engaging volunteers within the community to help improve literacy among at-risk children. I am so excited to be part of a team that is so passionate about the work we are doing.



In addition to the new Regional Associates, the No Kid Hungry Virginia team in Richmond continues to work alongside you to provide meals to Virginia's children.

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The expanding No Kid Hungry Virginia team looks forward to working with you all in 2017!